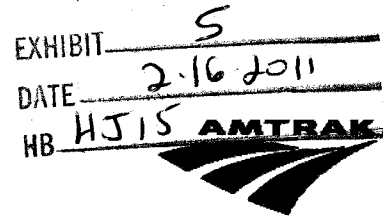


News Release



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MORE PASSENGERS CHOOSING AMTRAK Record January marks 15 straight months of ridership growth

WASHINGTON – The numbers are now in and January is the 15th straight month of ridership growth for Amtrak and also the best January on record with 2,126,429 passengers. This strong performance is part of a long-term trend that has seen America's Railroadsm set annual ridership records in seven of the last eight fiscal years, including more than 28.7 million passengers in FY 2010.

"The steady rise in ridership demonstrates a growing demand and the ongoing need for a national intercity passenger rail system," said Amtrak President and CEO Joe Boardman. "With oil approaching \$100 a barrel, we expect to continue to post strong ridership numbers as more and more people choose Amtrak to meet their transportation needs."

Specifically, there was a 4.6 percent increase in riders in January 2011 vs. January 2010, or nearly 94,000 more passengers. The 15 straight months of ridership growth spans from November 2009 to January 2011 which averages a 6 percent growth rate over this period.

Factors that are contributing to the success of Amtrak include a moderately improved economic environment allowing some recovery of business travel along the Northeast Corridor, sustained high gasoline prices, the increased appeal and popularity of rail travel, effective marketing campaigns, and the introduction of Wi-Fi on the high-speed *Acela Express* trains.

The highlights below compare the first four months of current FY 2011 (October 2010-January 2011) to the same period during FY 2010 and show increased Amtrak ridership across the country from coast to coast.

East Highlights

The high-speed *Acela Express* service continued its popularity with a ridership increase of 9.2 percent. *Piedmont Service* (Charlotte – Raleigh) experienced a significant gain of 110.8 percent following the introduction of an additional round-trip frequency last summer. In

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addition, Virginia routes had sizable gains with Washington –Lynchburg at 26.7 percent and Washington – Newport News at 12.8 percent.

Central Highlights

The Chicago hub experienced steep ridership gains as led by the *Blue Water* (Chicago – Port Huron) at 27.7 percent. In addition, the Chicago – Pontiac *Wolverine Service* was up 21 percent, the Chicago – Carbondale *Illini/Saluki* route up 15.1 percent, the Chicago – Indianapolis *Hoosier State* up 13.3 percent, and the Chicago - St. Louis *Lincoln Service* was up 11.7 percent. Also, the *Missouri River Runner* (Kansas City – St. Louis) experienced a 17.2 percent gain.

West Highlights

In California, routes experienced gains including the *Capitol Corridor Service* (San Jose – Auburn) with 7.3 percent and the *Pacific Surfliner Service* (San Luis Obispo – San Diego) with 5 percent growth.

National Highlights

Among the long-distance Amtrak trains, the *Cardinal* (New York – Chicago) had the largest increase of 15.9 percent. Other long-distance trains with strong gains were the *Sunset Limited* (Orlando – Los Angeles) at 13.8 percent, the *City of New Orleans* (Chicago – New Orleans) at 13.1 percent, the *Palmetto* (New York – Savannah) at 12.8 percent, and the *Lake Shore Limited* (New York – Chicago) at 12.7 percent.

About Amtrak®:

Amtrak is America's Railroadsm, the nation's intercity passenger rail provider and its only high-speed rail operator. A record 28.7 million passengers traveled on Amtrak in FY 2010 on more than 300 daily trains – at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph) – that connect 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces. Amtrak operates trains in partnership with 15 states and four commuter rail agencies. Amtrak also is a strong financial performer achieving an 85 percent cost-recovery ratio in FY 2010. Enjoy the journeysm at Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information. Join us on Facebook at facebook.com/Amtrak and follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Amtrak.

Ridership Charts Attached

Amtrak Ridership

	January FY11			October-January FY11		
	Ridership			Ridership		
	FY11	FY10	% change	FY11	FY10	% change
NEC Spine						
<i>Acela Express</i>	245,207	228,285	+7.4	1,129,873	1,034,775	+9.2
<i>Northeast Regional</i>	506,043	512,663	-1.3	2,413,349	2,393,988	+0.8
<i>Special Trains</i>	1,738	1,430	+21.5	3,298	5,130	-35.7
Subtotal	752,988	742,378	+1.4	3,546,520	3,433,893	+3.3
State Supported and Other Short Distance Corridors						
<i>Ethan Allen</i>	3,577	3,758	-4.8	15,441	16,120	-4.2
<i>Vermont</i>	6,672	6,563	+1.7	31,112	28,555	+9.0
<i>Albany-Niagara Falls-Toronto</i>	29,286	25,772	+13.6	132,697	116,454	+13.9
<i>Downeaster Service</i>	34,822	31,630	+10.1	158,053	145,282	+8.8
<i>Shuttles (New Haven-Springfield)</i>	25,901	25,370	+2.1	126,154	120,981	+4.3
<i>Keystone Service</i>	98,065	94,420	+3.9	443,075	423,822	+4.5
<i>Empire Service (New York City-Albany)</i>	70,830	70,211	+0.9	337,818	323,815	+4.3
<i>Lincoln Service (Chicago-St. Louis)</i>	44,584	38,691	+15.2	193,666	173,322	+11.7
<i>Hiawatha Service</i>	57,804	53,621	+7.8	264,069	250,097	+5.6
<i>Wolverine Service</i>	35,912	31,182	+15.2	166,595	137,683	+21.0
<i>Illini/Saluki (Chicago-Carbondale)</i>	21,616	18,743	+15.3	100,312	87,141	+15.1
<i>Illinois Zephyr/Carl Sandburg (Chicago-Quincy)</i>	15,055	13,741	+9.6	74,108	67,220	+10.2
<i>Heartland Flyer</i>	4,301	4,417	-2.6	23,706	22,034	+7.6
<i>Pacific Surfliner Service</i>	208,134	194,340	+7.1	845,856	805,441	+5.0
<i>Amtrak Cascades Service</i>	53,826	55,989	-3.9	256,503	256,977	-0.2
<i>Capitol Corridor Service</i>	130,863	117,860	+11.0	544,069	506,907	+7.3
<i>San Joaquin Service</i>	72,395	71,077	+1.9	322,537	312,930	+3.1
<i>Adirondack</i>	8,294	7,200	+15.2	36,145	33,283	+8.6
<i>Blue Water</i>	12,233	10,096	+21.2	58,505	45,829	+27.7
<i>Washington-Lynchburg</i>	9,525	7,768	+22.6	47,458	37,468	+26.7
<i>Washington-Newport News</i>	34,460	29,812	+15.6	168,612	149,445	+12.8
<i>Hoosier State</i>	2,332	2,254	+3.5	12,005	10,594	+13.3
<i>Missouri River Runner (Kansas City-St. Louis)</i>	11,330	9,996	+13.3	59,166	50,486	+17.2
<i>Pennsylvanian</i>	15,022	15,527	-3.3	71,034	71,041	-0.0
<i>Pere Marquette</i>	7,497	7,177	+4.5	33,413	31,215	+7.0
<i>Carolinian</i>	21,167	21,646	-2.2	104,104	99,225	+4.9
<i>Piedmont Service</i>	10,073	4,963	+103.0	50,076	23,750	+110.8
<i>Buses</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Special Trains</i>	3,487	3,000	+16.2	22,609	22,534	+0.3
Subtotal	1,049,063	976,824	+7.4	4,698,898	4,369,651	+7.5
Long Distance						
<i>Silver Star</i>	32,908	31,115	+5.8	139,940	132,091	+5.9
<i>Cardinal</i>	7,680	7,131	+7.7	37,458	32,325	+15.9
<i>Silver Meteor</i>	27,622	26,795	+3.1	122,200	116,901	+4.5
<i>Empire Builder</i>	36,777	34,258	+7.4	165,813	165,803	+0.0
<i>Capitol Ltd.</i>	14,795	15,292	-3.3	71,298	69,335	+2.8
<i>California Zephyr</i>	28,125	25,429	+10.6	120,591	111,469	+8.2
<i>Southwest Chief</i>	22,385	21,388	+4.7	108,295	101,596	+6.6
<i>City of New Orleans</i>	17,654	15,971	+10.5	77,277	68,345	+13.1
<i>Texas Eagle</i>	21,005	19,477	+7.8	90,007	86,263	+4.3
<i>Sunset Limited</i>	6,697	6,313	+6.1	30,775	27,052	+13.8
<i>Coast Starlight</i>	27,510	31,971	-14.0	135,239	142,837	-5.3
<i>Lake Shore Limited</i>	27,149	25,850	+5.0	124,177	110,156	+12.7
<i>Palmetto</i>	13,166	12,800	+2.9	64,841	57,501	+12.8
<i>Crescent</i>	19,722	19,308	+2.1	96,574	89,447	+8.0
<i>Auto Train</i>	21,183	20,286	+4.4	83,035	80,143	+3.6
Subtotal	324,378	313,384	+3.5	1,467,520	1,391,264	+5.5
Amtrak Total	2,126,429	2,032,586	+4.6	9,712,938	9,194,808	+5.6

NOTE: Ridership to some locations south and west of Chicago is on both state-supported and national system Amtrak trains, as reported above. Combined ridership of all Amtrak trains on these corridors is as follows for Oct. 10 - Jan. 11: Chicago-St. Louis, 211,746 (up 8% from Oct. 09 - Jan. 10); Chicago-Carbondale, 116,867 (up 18% from Oct. 09 - Jan. 10) and Chicago-Quincy 85,030 (up 9% from Oct. 09 - Jan. 10).

Amtrak Monthly Ridership 15 Straight Months of Ridership Growth		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Ridership</u>	<u>% chg. vs same month prior year</u>
Nov-09	2,389,841	+2.8%
Dec-09	2,394,671	+4.8%
Jan-10	2,032,586	+2.7%
Feb-10	1,951,411	+5.5%
Mar-10	2,473,551	+13.5%
Apr-10	2,445,765	+7.9%
May-10	2,490,655	+7.1%
Jun-10	2,566,481	+9.3%
Jul-10	2,766,812	+9.8%
Aug-10	2,541,159	+2.3%
Sep-10	2,286,215	+5.7%
Oct-10	2,541,170	+6.9%
Nov-10	2,541,090	+6.3%
Dec-10	2,504,249	+4.6%
Jan-11	2,126,429	+4.6%

Annual Amtrak Ridership FY 00 to FY 10	
FY00	20,992,485
FY01	21,812,224
FY02	21,669,207
FY03	22,333,180
FY04	23,362,729
FY05	24,031,170
FY06	24,306,965
FY07	25,847,531
FY08	28,716,407
FY09	27,167,014
FY10	28,716,857